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Verizon opens new Franklin headquarters

Verizon Wireless celebrated the opening of its new \$54 million call center and state headquarters in Franklin on Tuesday.

The company has moved nearly 700 Nashville-area employees from various offices, including the now-closed Grassmere Business Park location in Nashville.

Verizon announced plans last year to build the center and hire up to 700 new employees in Nashville during the next three to five years. President and CEO Lowell McAdam said Tuesday the hiring plans still are in place, despite a slowdown in the economy.

"We have no plans to change our trajectory," he said. "We have always gone for the higher credit-rated customer. It's like the real estate market. We didn't have the sub-prime customer."

— NAOMI SNYDER